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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— Henry P. Bowditch, Francis A. Walker, William Minot, Jr., and Charles S. Minot, have signed a declaration of trust for the Elizabeth Thompson Science Fund. Mrs. Thompson has presented \$25,000 in trust to these gentlemen "to be the means of ennobling and promoting investigation and the study of science for the sake of science and the benefit of mankind." This endowment is not for the benefit of any one department of science, but it is the intention of the trustees to give the preference to those investigations, *not already otherwise provided for*, which have for their object the advancement of human knowledge, or the benefit of mankind in general, rather than to researches directed to the solution of questions of merely local importance.

Applications for assistance from this fund should be accompanied by a full statement of the nature of the investigation, of the conditions under which it is to be prosecuted, and of the manner in which the appropriation asked for is to be expended. The applications should be forwarded to the secretary of the Board of Trustees, Dr. C. S. Minot, 25 Mt. Vernon street, Boston, Mass., U. S. A.

The first grant will be made early in January, 1886.

— Dr. William Benjamin Carpenter, LL.D., F.R.S., an eminent English physiologist, died in London, Nov. 11. He published an important work entitled, *Principles of General and Comparative Physiology*. His reputation was widely extended by an excellent work called, *Principles of Human Physiology*. For many years he edited the *British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review*. He will also be remembered for his work on the physics of the ocean, on Foraminifera and crinoids, as well as for his treatise on the microscope. Dr. Carpenter died from the effects of terrible burns caused by the upsetting of a lamp while he was taking a vapor bath for rheumatism.

— A telegram from Memphis says that "millions of squirrels are emigrating from the Mississippi side over to the Arkansas shore at a point commencing about five miles below Memphis and extending down for twenty miles. They are swimming the Mississippi river and evidently making for more elevated grounds in Arkansas. Thousands are being killed by farmers, who, by reason of their great numbers, use sticks instead of guns. A similar emigration of squirrels occurred in 1872."

— We willingly correct an error into which we fell in our last number. Besides the Comision Cientifica of Mexico, there is a Comision Geographico-Exploradora, of which the director is Señor Augustin Diaz. Professor Ferrari-Perez is the chief of the Section de Historia Natural of the latter. This gentleman is at present in the United States engaged in identifying the natural

products of his country as represented in our museums and libraries.

— Thomas Davidson, the English scientist, is dead, at the age of 68. His researches were principally connected with geology and palæontology. His large work on British Fossil Brachiopoda, in five quarto volumes, will be, when published, one of the most complete palæontological monographs ever published. He has also published eighty scientific papers. His collection was bequeathed to the British Museum.

— The board of regents of Kansas State University, at a recent meeting unanimously resolved to name the new museum building in process of erection, "Snow Hall of Natural History." This is a deserved compliment to Professor F. H. Snow, whose connection with the institution has been one of the mainstays of its success.

— The death of M. Charles Robin, the eminent histologist, is announced from Paris. He had been professor of histology at the Faculty of Medicine since 1832, and was in his 65th year. In 1871 he worked with Littré in founding the Society of Sociology, and by his death the Senate loses all but the last of its scientific men.

— The October number of the Johns Hopkins University Circular embraces a résumé of the work done in the Chesapeake Zoological Laboratory, under the direction of Professor Brooks, from May to September, 1885. It shows that much successful work was done during the season.

— At the meeting of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, for May 27, Dr. Lendenfeld announced the discovery of sensitive and ganglion nerve-cells in the horny sponges, similar to those which he had observed as occurring in calcareous sponges, but much larger.

— Dr. William Wood, of East Windsor Hill, Conn., died August 9, 63 years old. He was an excellent local ornithologist, several of his papers appearing in the early volumes of this magazine.

— The *Annales des Sciences Naturelles*, xix, No. 1, contains discourses by Professors Quatrefages, Blanchard and Lacaze-Duthiers, pronounced at the funeral of Milne-Edwards.

— The *Kansas City Review* comes to us in a new dress and with additional interest in its contents. The labor of years devoted to it by Col. Case is evidently meeting its just reward.

— James Macfarlane, author of *Geological Railway Guide* and *Geologists' Traveling Hand-Book*, died October 12, at Towanda, Penna., aged 66.

— Dr. H. A. Atkins, of Locke, Mich., also a good local ornithologist, died May 19, aged 63.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, 1885.—Communications: Col. Marshall McDonald, Fish-culture a necessity for the maintenance of the shad fishery; Mr. Wm. H. Dall, Deep-sea mollusks and the laws illustrated in their development; Mr. Richard Rathbun, Remarks on the Woods Holl station of the U. S. Fish Commission; Mr. Romyn Hitchcock, Notes on the ed snow, with exhibition of specimens.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Oct. 5, 1885.—The following papers were presented: On the agatized woods and the malachite, azurite, etc., from Arizona (illustrated with specimens of all, and with microscopical sections of the fossil woods); also, Some notes on the new meteorite that fell in Western Pennsylvania, by Mr. Geo. F. Kunz.

Oct. 19.—The following paper was presented: On a phosphorescent flagellate infusorian, probably a new species of *Noctiluca*, from the surf at Ocean Beach, N. J. (with an exhibition of the phosphorescence, and of preparations under the microscope), by Dr. Alexis A. Julien.

Nov. 2.—Dr. J. S. Newberry addressed the academy upon the recent Geological Congress at Berlin, its objects, its results and its men.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, Oct. 7.—Dr. S. Kneeland described the family-life of the Norwegian Lapps, and the habits of the reindeer.

Oct. 21.—Dr. S. Kneeland exhibited models of two memorial gravestones of the iron age, from Central Sweden, bearing Runic inscriptions and other symbols.

Nov. 4.—Professor F. W. Putnam related the circumstances under which the skulls of a mastodon and of a man were found together at Worcester, Mass.; Mr. Wm. M. Davis spoke of the drift-formations in which the skulls were buried.